Menace of child labour

1961. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has about 17 million child labourers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Delhi alone has 5 lakh working kids;

(c) what incentives and punishment had been given during the previous year to curb the menace of child labour; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Census conducted by the Registrar General of India is the only authentic data in respect of population of child labour in the country. As per the Census 2001, the number of child labour in the country is 1.26 crore.

(b) As per the Census 2001, the number of child labour in Delhi is 41899.

(c) and (d) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the employers found engaging children in identified hazardous occupations are liable to be prosecuted. For violating provisions of the Act, it further provides for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three months but which may extend to one year or with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000 but which may extend to Rs. 20,000 or with both. A total of 1788, 325 and 3910 employers were convicted during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively for offences under the said Act.

Population engaged in economically productive activity

1962. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 313 million main workers, 89.2 million marginal workers and 624.6 million non-workers in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 39.1 per cent of the country's

population are engaged in some form of economically productive activity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with future plan to ameliorate the condition of 624.6 million non-workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The non-workers mainly constitute; children, housewives and aged, who are basically supported by the working population and the social security as provided by the State.

Job for graduates

1963. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of jobless in India has increased by three times during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that 17.2 percent of Indian graduates are jobless;

(c) if so, the details thereof with reasons for the failure of various schemes in checking it; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to ensure job for graduates?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per the information available from Census 1991 and 2001, number of non-workers seeking/available for work grew by around three times during 1991-2001. However, the census does not have a precise definition of unemployment. Non-workers seeking/available for work as category may not necessarily correspond to the definition of unemployment. Percentage of non-workers seeking/available for work among graduates during 2001 is estimated at around 17.2%.

(c) In India, employment creation is targeted through growth of the economy as well as through special employment generation programmes. Main reasons for growing unemployment were economy not growing at the intended rate, growth rate of labour force being higher than the growth rate of employment opportunities etc.